

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063241

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:SVSMITH:EW

APPROVED BY EB/TT/MA:RKBANK

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NEA/ARP:SWBUCK

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R 201937Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SA

SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION JIDDA: ALLEGATION OF UNNECESSARY
CONGESTION SURCHARGES

REF: JIDDA 1721

1. SUMMARY: WATERMAN INFORMS FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
AND DEPARTMENT THAT THEY BELIEVE SURCHARGE JUSTIFIED FOR
THE REASONS GIVEN BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. WATERMAN AGREES THAT, AS REPORTED IN JIDDA 1721, MOST
OF WATERMAN'S SERVICE TO JIDDA IS BY LASH. HOWEVER,
WATERMAN REPORTS THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR USE OF LASH,
JIDDA PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE IS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE OF
DIFFICULTIES THEY ENCOUNTERING IN DISCHARGING CARGOES FROM
THE BARGES. IN PARTICULAR, BARGES ARE NOT EMPTY AND
AVAILABLE FOR RE-LOADING ON RETURN OF MOTHER VESSELS,
NECESSITATING THE INSTITUTION OF SEVERAL COSTLY ACTIONS BY
WATERMAN AND DISLOCATIONS TO THEIR SERVICE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 063241

3. DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF CRANES IN JIDDA, WATERMAN HAS HAD TO HIRE SHORE-SIDE CRANES AT ITS OWN COST. WATERMAN HAS HAD TO ALTER ITINERARY OF MOTHER SHIPS TO GIVE MORE TIME FOR DISCHARGE OF CARGOES FROM BARGES. WATERMAN HAS

HAD TO PUT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE IN JIDDA TO SUPERVISE UNLOADING OF BARGES AND HAS EVEN HAD TO LEASE BARGES FROM OTHER LINES BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN BARGES NOT BEING AVAILABLE IN TIME AT JIDDA.

4. WATERMAN HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SERVE JIDDA MORE OFTEN, BUT DUE TO PRESENT PORT CONDITIONS, CANNOT AFFORD TO DO SO. IN FACT, WATERMAN IS CONSIDERING RAISING THEIR PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE FOR JIDDA EVEN HIGHER BUT HAS NOT YET TAKEN THIS STEP IN HOPES THAT JIDDA PORT AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO CLEAR UP PORT CONGESTION IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. IF EMBASSY HAS ANY INFORMATION CONTRARY TO WHAT WATERMAN REPORTS ABOVE, PLEASE SO CABLE DEPARTMENT. INGERSOLL

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